

Traceability and Recall

Adapted from the
Georgia GAP Food Safety Program
(<http://gfvga.org/GAGAP/>)

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(<http://www.kimberly.uidaho.edu/potatoes/gap/GAPwebpage/gapPDF08/Documentation.pdf>)

Traceability:

The ‘ability to trace the history, application or location of an entity by means of recorded identifications’ as defined by The International Organization of Standardization. The FDA requirements for a tracking system must be for “one step back, one step forward.”

Traceability may relate to:

- The origin of produce and ingredients
- The product history
- The distribution and location of the product after delivery.

Traceability and Recall Plan:

A documented, systematic plan that indicates how an organization will track and recall produce. The system should enable trace back one step and trace forward one step to occur in the event of a recall. Included in the plan are traceability and recall procedures, recall team roles with contact information, and contacts for product destinations. Additionally, the plan should have ready-to-use documents such as trace back/recall customer contact forms (stating who was called, date and time, and the purpose of the recall), crop history records, traceability logs, etc. These forms will be used to trace the origin of a product and account for all other products distributed from that same point of origin that falls under the recall scenario.

Mock Recall:

A *mock recall* is an internal exercise to test a company’s ability to trace and recall product or ingredients using their documented traceability and recall plan. When performing a “mock recall” one need to create a scenario of a problem with a delivered product. An operation then follows the traceability and recall plan, tracking date and time of contact. The mock recall should have as close to 100% reconciliation of all implicated product as possible. Make copies of all supporting materials to show how reconciliation occurred. BE SURE TO WRITE OR STAMP THE PHRASE, “MOCK RECALL,” ACROSS ALL COPIES OF SUPPORTING MATERIALS.



Sample Mock Recall Statement

(Write or stamp 'Mock Recall' across all documents distributed.)

_____ called to say that _____ with traceability code _____
(Buyer) (product) (traceability code)

had a _____ contamination. According to the Traceability Checklist,
(describe contamination)

_____ were harvested on _____ from _____ and given
(product and weight) (date) (production area)

traceability codes. These items were delivered to _____ on _____.
(destination) (delivery date)

_____ and _____ confirmed the tags of the purchase and agreed on
(grower/GAP designee) (buyer)

the pick-up and disposal of the product. The pick-up of product occurred on _____ and
(date of pick-up)

disposal method of _____ occurred on _____.
(disposal method) (date of disposal)

The following _____ with traceability codes _____ delivered to _____
(product) (traceability code) (destination)

were identified as having the same origin as the products recalled above. _____ was
(buyer)

contacted and informed of the recall on _____. _____ and _____
(date) (grower/GAP designee) (buyer)

confirmed the tags of the purchase and agreed on the pick-up and disposal of the product. The pick-up of product occurred on _____ and disposal method of _____ occurred on _____
(date of pick-up) (disposal method)

_____.
(date of disposal)



Sample Traceability Checklist Log

Trace back Program Contact:

Farm Operation:

Document:

Harvest Date	Product	Field or Production Area	Traceability Code	Vehicle ID	Outgoing Date	Delivery Destination and Contact	Amount in Delivery
9/12/09	Squash	Field 12	0912TC1214	14	9/12/09	Wholesaler X	12 cases
9/12/09	Squash	Field 12	0912TC1215	15	9/12/09	School District X	12 cases
9/13/09	Potatoes	Field 14	0912TC1416	16	9/13/09	School District Y	8 cases
9/13/09	Squash	Field 13	0913TC1315	15	9/13/09	Wholesaler X	20 cases
9/13/09	Carrots	Field 9	0912TC0912	12	9/13/09	Hospital Z	

